

today?" "Well," said he, "We all got a lot of information from the director, the delegate and others. I always read The Western Producer and the pamphlets from Head Office, but these discussion groups helped me see the great importance of our local committee."

"Why do you say that?"

"Man, can't you see that our local committees are a small working unit of democracy and democracy and co-operation won't grow unless we work at it. Groups bring us together and we loosen up, and certainly get the benefit of the other fellow's thinking. Now we'll go home and see what we can do about some things we talked about. Talking is great stuff, but after all democracy and co-operation start with you and me IN ACTION!"

Farming's No Cinch

Lots of city folks who are SOLD on country living are OVERSOLD on farming for a profit. On the theory that sunshine and rain are free and seeds cost little, some figure farming is a cinch.

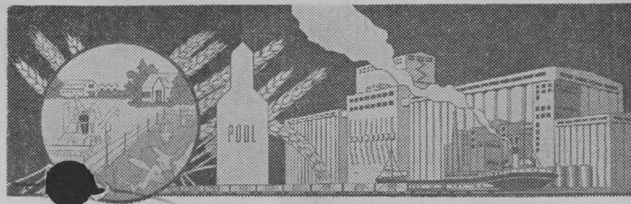
But the following facts, which are just a few of the many possible hazards, should make it obvious to the city folks that farming is far from as easy as it might look.

Say you're a livestock farmer, for example. You may wake up some zero morning to find your sows have lost their pigs; or discover a skunk has killed half your chickens. And you can't call up the cows on a blizzard morning and say you're sick and won't be out to milk them this morning. Tending livestock also is a 365-day-a-year job.

Or, maybe you're growing some of these crops which Nature grows with free air, free rain and God-given soil. Sometimes rain doesn't come—and sometimes it floods you. Rust, hail or frost set you back a year or more.

Farming takes skill and experience, plus management. But it also takes many hours of hard work and contains many heartaches—just how many, a person never knows until he has farmed himself.

—G.T.A. Digest.



Highlights of the Committee Conventions 1956



Committee Program

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A Co-operative can be compared to a prayer because it is used much more when farmers are in need of help.—Burton Wood.

Issued by
SASKATCHEWAN WHEAT POOL
REGINA, SASK.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 1956 COMMITTEE CONVENTIONS

Wheat Pool Committee Conventions are held each year in order that committee men, through contact, may exchange experiences and make plans for future work. Here is what one committee man told us.

"I was a member of the Wheat Pool Committee for some years and then dropped out. However, I was put back on the committee last year and soon learned that I was out of touch with Wheat Pool work and Wheat Pool progress. This Committee Convention has been an eye-opener to me. I wish that all members could see the progress that we have made as clearly as I do."

What Are Wheat Pool Committees?

The Wheat Pool Committees are groups of men and women elected by shareholders at Local Annual Meetings. Their job is to build and maintain the strength of the Wheat Pool Organization. It is their responsibility to work in close co-operation with Local Elevator Agents, Delegates, Travelling Superintendents and Fieldmen.

What is the Value of Committees to the Organization?

The progress that has been made so far in the growth and strength of our Organization lies in the fact that committee men have given good and sound local leadership in practically every community undertaking. Our committees have sponsored many junior activities, including Grain, Calf, Swine, Poultry, Tractor and Homecraft Clubs. They have also sponsored hundreds of one-day Co-operative Schools and Citizenship Days, and have been responsible for sending thousands of young students to the Co-operative Schools held annually at Saskatoon, Fort Qu'Appelle, Prince Albert, Swift Current, North Battleford and Foam Lake.

All this is valuable work. Many young people today have rarely seen a field of stooks. Harvesting methods have changed from the binder to the combine. This is evidence that we cannot do tomorrow's job with yesterday's tools.

1956 Committee Conventions

At the Conventions this year a province-wide effort was made to examine some of the problems of local committees and to recommend solutions. These problems were listed under four general headings:

1. Organizing a good Committee.
2. Committee Meetings and General Committee work.
3. Local Annual Meetings.
4. General Meetings and Special Projects.

After considerable discussion, many groups came out with some very good recommendations.

No. 1 could be summarized as follows:

A. Elect shareholders to the local committee who have strong convictions, loyalty and are accepted as leaders by the community.

B. Add new blood once in a while, and discourage the re-election of the committee as a body.

C. Elect chairman and secretary who like the work and are prepared to give needed leadership.

Committees should not send representatives to the Convention, but all members should attend.

Change agenda so as to have an afternoon session followed by a public meeting in the evening.

For question No. 2, the recommendations of committee convention groups were as follows:

A. A minimum of at least four committee meetings per year. These meetings should be well-planned, have a definite purpose, and should have a prepared agenda.

B. Each committee should study the needs of the community and then sponsor actual projects with special emphasis on those which will benefit young people.

C. Committees should encourage deliveries of grain and livestock to the facilities of the company, promote sales of its products and subscriptions to The Western Producer. Committee men should also undertake the responsibility of maintaining Pool membership in the community and invite young farmers to become shareholders.

D. Local committees should revise the membership list at least once a year. (A new list will be supplied on request from Head Office.) After revision of the list, Head Office should be notified immediately of any changes. In case of death of a member the committees should write to Head Office giving the name of the next-of-kin and if possible the name and address of the Administrator.

E. Local committees should study all problems of agriculture and assist in building a farm program to meet present day needs.

Question No. 3, which dealt with attendance at local annual meetings was really a tough one. Groups at many committee conventions arrived at the following recommendations:

A. Because the annual meeting is a business meeting it was felt that shareholders should attend them and "look after their own business." In this connection it was generally agreed that all efforts should be made to hold these meetings in a hall, school or a church. Pool Elevator Offices were not considered a good place to hold an annual meeting. It was also suggested that the hall, school or church should be properly heated and lighted and seating arrangements made as comfortable as possible.

B. Groups generally agreed that some shareholders expect a **personal** invitation from a member of the committee. Many suggested that a "general ring" usually brought good results. Some thought that the

"general ring" should mention some one item aimed to catch the shareholder's interest. Some groups felt that a special invitation to ladies, and arrangement for lunch, brings good results.

Under question No. 4, the groups discussed ways and means to increase interest in "general meetings and special projects." Most groups arrived at the following solutions:

A. All general meetings of shareholders should be well planned and well timed.

That there should be at least one such meeting held annually at every point in the province and that the Delegate, Director, Travelling Superintendent or the Fieldman should be invited to attend. These meetings give our shareholders and others an opportunity to ask questions and get correct information.

With the facts before them, they could introduce resolutions, discuss them and if passed, they could then be forwarded by the secretary of the Wheat Pool Committee to the Head Office of the Wheat Pool and be a factor in forming the Wheat Pool Policy.

B. Some groups suggested that a "Social Evening" or a "picture show" could be worked in with a general meeting so as to help build up an attendance. In this connection it was suggested that the Fieldmen should be invited to a committee meeting to help plan a program of this nature.

C. Many other special projects were suggested including sponsoring picnics, Farm Days, Rallies, Citizenship days, Agricultural short courses, 4-H Clubs, Girls' Homecraft Clubs and Community Rinks.

Question Period

This year's committee conventions were highlighted by well organized question periods. Committee men directed their questions to Travelling Superintendents, Delegates, Directors and Fieldmen. Some examples of questions dealing with Policy and answered by Directors were as follows:

Has the Board been able to evolve an acceptable method for cash advances on farm stored grain during congested periods?

Is the C.F.A. Price Formula of 65-85% of parity adequate and fair to produce? A breakdown of the 319 resolutions received so far from Committee Conventions shows 35 dealing with agricultural prices and farm financing; 81 with quotas; box car distribution and policies of the Canadian Wheat Board; 13 with livestock and 8 with the activities of Wheat Pool Committees. The balance were on various topics ranging from freight rates to I.W.A.

Travelling Superintendents were swamped with questions dealing with supply of grain cars, equalization of quotas and alternate delivery points.

Many questions were asked of the Delegates dealing with Livestock Marketing bringing out the fact that generally speaking farmers were dissatisfied with the fluctuating of livestock prices.

Considerable discussion took place on methods used to acquaint all livestock producers of the advantages of marketing livestock through co-operatively owned public yards. Today Co-operative Marketing agencies are within trucking distance of all livestock growers in Saskatchewan. All groups were of the opinion that producers would profit by the use of their own livestock public markets.

Fieldmen answered questions on co-operative Education work, and a program of regular committee meetings.

Elevator Agents were also brought into the discussion period with such questions as:

"How can Wheat Pool Committees and Elevator Agents work closer together in providing better service to the shareholder in making each other's and their families' work easier and more effective in the community."

All in all, the question periods were thought provoking, interesting and beneficial to all. The quality of questions indicated a keen

appreciation of the many problems facing western agriculture and proved that Wheat Pool Committees are interested not only in the day to day operations of their Co-operative Enterprises, but also in the broader aspects of the human and social side of the Co-operative Movement.

Future Policy

The statement on Future Policy by the Director was a very important part of all Conventions, as today farm costs are increasing faster than farm income.

At the Annual Meeting last November the Delegates advocated the following:

"If as a result of the current year's marketing experiences, the final price received by the producer for the 1955-56 crop drops below the price received for the 1953-54 crop; That the difference between the final realized price for the current year's crop and the minimum price set out in the current International Wheat Agreement, should be made up by the National Treasury.

That the Government of Canada should be asked to assume the carrying charges on all grain in store at the end of each crop year.

That a domestic price for wheat should be established at a level not less than the existing maximum price under the terms of the International Wheat Agreement.

That we urge the Government of Canada to make immediate provision for advances to farmers on farm stored grain.

That an aggressive sales policy for the marketing of Canadian grain should be continued.

That as part of a campaign to increase the sale of Canadian Wheat, the Government of Canada should arrange to extend suitable credits and to accept sterling or other currencies when necessary."

Conclusion

The question was asked one committee man who had attended many conventions: "What did you get out of this meeting